

Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board

Membership

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Sam Chase, Chair
Royal Harris,
Vice-
Chair

April 24, 2017

Chair Greenlick and Members of House Health Care Committee

Tyra Black

Re: SB 754A - Tobacco 21

Baher Butti

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members:

Sandra Clark

The Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board (MC-PHAB) supports Oregon's legislative efforts to advance the health of Oregonians. In particular, we **support SB 754A, a bill to prohibit sales of tobacco products to those under 21 years of age** which is up for public hearing and possible work session in the House Health Care committee today.

Bernal Cruz

Rev. Audrey
DeCoursey

Gerald Deloney

MC-PHAB is composed of a cross-section of community public health activists, charged with advising the Multnomah County Health Department Public Health Division on issues of community concern. Board Members are not County employees; many are volunteers. We bring both professional and personal investment to advancing public health in our community. A guiding value of the board is equity in health outcomes for all residents of Multnomah County. We pay attention to the social determinants of health, as a pathway toward health equity. As such, the Board recognizes the heavy toll of tobacco use in our community and in our state.

Michelle Dunlop-Petty

Bertha Ferran

Scott Fogarty

Suzanne Hansche

Tram Hoang

The Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board (MC-PHAB) has gone on record in support of the policy of prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age.

April Johnson

Dr. Clifford C. Meeks

According to the latest statistics, approximately 18% of Oregonians smoke cigarettes, 14,000 are suffering from a serious tobacco-related disease and, each year, 7,000 die. This costs Oregon citizens, businesses and government over \$3 billion per year in medical costs, disability and lost productivity. And almost 100% of this toll can be traced directly to underage smoking since approximately 80% of current smokers began before the age of 18 - and 95% under the age of 21.

Kristina Narayan

Charles Tauman

T21 is effective in the fight against under 18 smoking as studies show that about 90% of under 18 smokers get their cigarettes from "friends" in the 18-21 age group. The Institute of Medicine reports that T21 is likely to reduce the prevalence of under 18 smoking by 25% with an overall drop of 12% resulting in a 10% decrease in tobacco-related deaths. In other words, if we can stop young people from starting, we can drastically reduce and eventually end the devastating toll of tobacco.

Contact

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At this time, both Hawaii and California have passed T21 along with 200 cities and counties in 14 states. And public opinion polling shows T21 is favored by 3/4 of Americans. Now is the time to take action in Oregon by passing T21 for the public

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Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board

health of our citizens and the pocketbooks of Oregon taxpayers. But most importantly, for our children.

Thank you for considering the views of MC-PHAB on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Chase". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Chase
Chair
Multnomah County Public Health Advisory Board